

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of ad hoc data sharing, the method comprising the steps of:

creating at least one user record representing a user granted access to digital assets, wherein:

- 5 each user has a client device,
at least two of the client devices are wirelessly coupled for data communications to at least one computer, and
each user record comprises a user access privilege field identifying for each user that user's user access privilege for access to digital assets;

receiving from client devices digital asset records representing digital assets, each digital asset record comprising:

- 15 at least one asset access permission field identifying a digital asset's asset access permission, and
a location field identifying the location of a digital asset;

retrieving digital assets in dependence upon the location fields in the digital asset records;

- 20 displaying the retrieved digital assets; and

editing one or more of the retrieved digital assets, wherein the editing is carried out in dependence upon user access privilege and in dependence upon asset access permission.

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2. The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a group table, wherein the group table comprises at least one group record, the group record representing a user group, the group record comprising a group access privilege field and a foreign key field, wherein the foreign key field identifies a one-to-many relationship between the group table and one or more related user records in the user table, wherein the group access privilege field identifies access privileges for users represented by the related user records.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein the user access privilege comprises:
- a 'read' privilege denoting the right to retrieve a digital asset from a location identified in a digital asset record,
- a 'write' privilege denoting a right to edit a digital asset, and
- an 'execute' privilege denoting a right to store a digital asset in a storage location other than the location identified in the digital asset record.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer further comprise the client devices coupled for data communication wirelessly through a service gateway.

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5. The method of claim 1 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer comprises client devices coupled for data communications through a Bluetooth piconet.
 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer comprises client devices coupled for data communications through 802.11(b) connections.
 7. The method of claim 1 wherein each user record further comprises:
 - a user identification field identifying a user represented by a user record, and
 - a user password.
 8. The method of claim 1 wherein each digital asset record further comprises:
 - a digital asset identification field,
 - an owner identification field, and
 - an asset relationship field identifying relationships among digital assets.
 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - receiving from a first client device a first digital asset record representing a first digital asset, the first digital asset record comprising a first asset access permission field identifying a first asset access permission; and

receiving from the first client device a second digital asset record representing the first digital asset, the second digital asset record comprising the first asset access permission field identifying a second asset access permission;

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replacing, promptly after receiving the second digital asset record, the first digital asset record with the second digital asset record;

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whereby the asset access permission for the digital asset is changed in near real time from the first asset access permission to the second asset access permission.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising editing a user access privilege field in a user record, whereby a user's user access privilege is changed in near real time.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the computer is located in a first physical location, wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer further comprise at least one of the client devices, located in a second physical location, wirelessly coupled for data communications through a second service gateway in the second physical location across an internet to a first service gateway located in the first physical location with the computer.

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12. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of creating a user group table and receiving digital asset records are carried out upon a staging computer and the steps of retrieving, displaying, and editing are carried out upon a project computer, the method comprising the further step of displaying on at least one computer display device of the staging computer the retrieved digital assets in their unedited form.

13. A system for ad hoc data sharing, the system comprising:

means for creating at least one user record representing a user granted access to digital assets, wherein:

5 each user has a client device,
 at least two of the client devices are wirelessly coupled for data
 communications to at least one computer, and
 each user record comprises a user access privilege field identifying for
 each user that user's user access privilege for access to digital
10 assets;

means for receiving from client devices digital asset records representing digital assets, each digital asset record comprising:

15 at least one asset access permission field identifying a digital asset's
 asset access permission, and
 a location field identifying the location of a digital asset;

means for retrieving digital assets in dependence upon the location fields in the digital asset records;

20 means for displaying the retrieved digital assets; and

 means for editing one or more of the retrieved digital assets, wherein the editing is carried out in dependence upon user access privilege and in
25 dependence upon asset access permission.

14. The system of claim 13 further comprising means for creating a group table, wherein the group table comprises at least one group record, the group record representing a user group, the group record comprising a group access privilege field and a foreign key field, wherein the foreign key field identifies a one-to-many relationship between the group table and one or more related user records in the user table, wherein the group access privilege field identifies access privileges for users represented by the related user records.
15. The system of claim 13 wherein the user access privilege comprises:
- a 'read' privilege denoting the right to retrieve a digital asset from a location identified in a digital asset record,
- a 'write' privilege denoting a right to edit a digital asset, and
- an 'execute' privilege denoting a right to store a digital asset in a storage location other than the location identified in the digital asset record.
16. The system of claim 13 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer further comprise the client devices coupled for data communication wirelessly through a service gateway.
17. The system of claim 13 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer comprises client devices coupled for data communications through a Bluetooth piconet.

18. The system of claim 13 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer comprises client devices coupled for data communications through 802.11(b) connections.

19. The system of claim 13 wherein each user record further comprises:
a user identification field identifying a user represented by a user record, and
a user password.

20. The system of claim 13 wherein each digital asset record further comprises:
a digital asset identification field,
an owner identification field, and
an asset relationship field identifying relationships among digital assets.

21. The system of claim 13 further comprising:

means for receiving from a first client device a first digital asset record representing a first digital asset, the first digital asset record comprising a first asset access permission field identifying a first asset access permission; and

means for receiving from the first client device a second digital asset record representing the first digital asset, the second digital asset record comprising the first asset access permission field identifying a second asset access permission;

means for replacing, promptly after receiving the second digital asset record,

the first digital asset record with the second digital asset record;

- 15 whereby the asset access permission for the digital asset is changed in near
real time from the first asset access permission to the second asset access
permission.
22. The system of claim 13 further comprising means for editing a user access
privilege field in a user record, whereby a user's user access privilege is
changed in near real time.
23. The system of claim 13 wherein the computer is located in a first physical
location, wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data
communications to the computer further comprise at least one of the client
devices, located in a second physical location, wirelessly coupled for data
5 communications through a second service gateway in the second physical
location across an internet to a first service gateway located in the first
physical location with the computer.
24. The system of claim 13 wherein the means for creating a user group table and
means for receiving digital asset records are carried out upon a staging
computer and the means for retrieving, displaying, and editing are carried out
upon a project computer, the system comprising the means for displaying on at
5 least one computer display device of the staging computer the retrieved digital
assets in their unedited form.

25. A computer program product for ad hoc data sharing, the computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating at least one user record representing a user granted access to digital assets, wherein:

each user has a client device,

at least two of the client devices are wirelessly coupled for data

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communications to at least one computer, and

each user record comprises a user access privilege field identifying for each user that user's user access privilege for access to digital assets;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from client devices digital asset records representing digital assets, each digital asset record comprising:

at least one asset access permission field identifying a digital asset's asset access permission, and

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a location field identifying the location of a digital asset;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving digital assets in dependence upon the location fields in the digital asset records;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for displaying the retrieved digital assets; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for editing one or more of the
retrieved digital assets, wherein the editing is carried out in dependence upon
30 user access privilege and in dependence upon asset access permission.

26. The computer program product of claim 25 further comprising means,
recorded on the recording medium, for creating a group table, wherein the
group table comprises at least one group record, the group record representing
5 a user group, the group record comprising a group access privilege field and a
foreign key field, wherein the foreign key field identifies a one-to-many
relationship between the group table and one or more related user records in
the user table, wherein the group access privilege field identifies access
privileges for users represented by the related user records.

27. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the user access privilege
comprises:

a 'read' privilege denoting the right to retrieve a digital asset from a location
5 identified in a digital asset record,

a 'write' privilege denoting a right to edit a digital asset, and

an 'execute' privilege denoting a right to store a digital asset in a storage
10 location other than the location identified in the digital asset record.

28. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer further comprise the client devices coupled for data communication wirelessly through a service gateway.

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29. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer comprises client devices coupled for data communications through a Bluetooth piconet.

30. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the computer comprises client devices coupled for data communications through 802.11(b) connections.

31. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein each user record further comprises:

a user identification field identifying a user represented by a user record, and

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a user password.

32. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein each digital asset record further comprises:

a digital asset identification field,

an owner identification field, and

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an asset relationship field identifying relationships among digital assets.

33. The computer program product of claim 25 further comprising:

means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from a first client device a first digital asset record representing a first digital asset, the first digital asset record comprising a first asset access permission field identifying a first asset access permission; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from the first client device a second digital asset record representing the first digital asset, the second digital asset record comprising the first asset access permission field identifying a second asset access permission;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for replacing, promptly after receiving the second digital asset record, the first digital asset record with the second digital asset record;

whereby the asset access permission for the digital asset is changed in near real time from the first asset access permission to the second asset access permission.

34. The computer program product of claim 25 further comprising means, recorded on the recording medium, for editing a user access privilege field in a user record, whereby a user's user access privilege is changed in near real time.

35. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer is located in a first physical location, wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data

communications to the computer further comprise at least one of the client devices, located in a second physical location, wirelessly coupled for data communications through a second service gateway in the second physical location across an internet to a first service gateway located in the first physical location with the computer.

36. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating a user group table and means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving digital asset records are carried out upon a staging computer and the means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving, displaying, and editing are carried out upon a project computer, the computer program product comprising the means, recorded on the recording medium, for displaying on at least one computer display device of the staging computer the retrieved digital assets in their unedited form.

37. A method of ad hoc data sharing for virtual team rooms, the method comprising the steps of:

creating at least one user record in computer memory in a project computer,
5 wherein:

each user record represents a user who is granted access to digital
assets,

each user has a client device,

at least two of the client devices are wirelessly coupled for data

10 communications to the project computer, and

each user record comprises a user access privilege field identifying for
each user that user's user access privilege for access to digital
assets;

15 receiving, in the project computer from client devices, digital asset records
representing digital assets, each digital asset record comprising:

at least one asset access permission field identifying a digital asset's
asset access permission, and

a location field identifying the location of a digital asset;

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retrieving, into the project computer, in dependence upon the location fields in
the digital asset records, digital assets;

25 displaying on at least one computer display device of the project computer the
retrieved digital assets, wherein the computer display device is in view of at
least two of the users; and

30 editing, through the project computer, one or more of the retrieved digital assets, wherein the editing is carried out in dependence upon user access privilege and in dependence upon asset access permission.

38. The method of claim 37 further comprising creating, wherein the group table comprises at least one group record, the group record representing a user group, the group record comprising a group access privilege field and a foreign key field, wherein the foreign key field identifies a one-to-many
5 relationship between the group table and one or more related user records in the user table, wherein the group access privilege field identifies access privileges for users represented by the related user records.

39. The method of claim 37 wherein the user access privilege comprises:

a 'read' privilege denoting the right to retrieve a digital asset from a location identified in a digital asset record,
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a 'write' privilege denoting a right to edit a digital asset, and

an 'execute' privilege denoting a right to store a digital asset in a storage location other than the location identified in the digital asset record.

10 40. The method of claim 37 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the project computer further comprise the client devices coupled for data communication wirelessly through a service gateway.

41. The method of claim 37 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the project computer comprises client devices coupled for data communications through a Bluetooth piconet.
42. The method of claim 37 wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the project computer comprises client devices coupled for data communications through 802.11(b) connections.
43. The method of claim 37 wherein each user record further comprises:
a user identification field identifying a user represented by a user record, and
a user password.
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44. The method of claim 37 wherein each digital asset record further comprises:
a digital asset identification field,
an owner identification field, and
an asset relationship field identifying relationships among digital
5 assets.
45. The method of claim 37 further comprising:

receiving from a first client device a first digital asset record representing a first digital asset, the first digital asset record comprising a first asset access
5 permission field identifying a first asset access permission; and

receiving from the first client device a second digital asset record representing the first digital asset, the second digital asset record comprising the first asset

access permission field identifying a second asset access permission;

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replacing, promptly after receiving the second digital asset record, the first digital asset record with the second digital asset record;

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whereby the asset access permission for the digital asset is changed in near real time from the first asset access permission to the second asset access permission.

46. The method of claim 37 further comprising editing a user access privilege field in a user record, whereby a user's user access privilege is changed in near real time.

47. The method of claim 37 wherein the project computer is located in a first physical location, wherein the client devices wirelessly coupled for data communications to the project computer further comprise at least one of the client devices, located in a second physical location, wirelessly coupled for data communications through a second service gateway in the second physical location across an internet to a first service gateway located in the first physical location with the project computer.

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48. The method of claim 37 wherein the steps of creating a user group table and receiving digital asset records are carried out upon a staging computer and the steps of retrieving, displaying, and editing are carried out upon the project computer, the method comprising the further step of displaying on at least one computer display device of the staging computer the retrieved digital assets in their original and unedited form, wherein the computer display device of the

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second computer is in view of at least two of the users.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein the computer display devices comprise projectors and projection screens.
50. The method of claim 48 wherein the computer display devices comprise video displays.